GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:652
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Bonded Labour
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Kishore Shri Kaushal;Munde Dr.Pritam Gopinath;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Patle Smt. Kamla Devi;Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Shri Rajesh;Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether forced and bonded labour system continues to persist both in the urban/backward and rural areas despite its abolition in the country;
(b)if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
(c)the number of cases reported under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, along with the action taken by the Government against the guilty during each of the last three years and the current year;
(d)the number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated along with the funds provided to the States under the Bonded Labourers Rehabilitation scheme during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
(e)the further steps taken/being taken by the Government to completely abolish bonded labour system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)
(a) & (b): Instances of prevalence of bonded labour system are noticed now and then even after its abolition by the law with effect from 25th October, 1975. The root of the problem lies in the social customs and economic compulsions.
(c) & (d): Action against the guilty under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 is taken by the respective State/UT Governments. Under the Act, the District Magistrate has been conferred with the powers of Judicial Magistrate of first class for convicting the perpetrators of bonded labour system. The Act provides for punishment of imprisonment for a term upto three years and fine upto Rupees Two thousand for extracting bonded
Contd..2/-

labour. The Central Government does not maintain records in respect of the number of cases reported under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and the action taken by the State/UT Government against the guilty.
The State-wise number of bonded labour released and rehabilitated alongwith the funds provided by the Central Government under the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme during the last three years and current year is as under:

Year	State	Number of bonded labour released and rehabilitated	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2013-14	Odisha	28	2.80
	Rajasthan	150	15.00
	Uttar Pradesh	1800	180.00
2014-15	Chhattisgarh	853	85.30
2015-16	Uttar Pradesh	2216	221.60
2016-17 (upto 31.12.2016)	Bihar	1792	179.20

(e): The Constitution of India vide Art.23 prohibits forced labour following which the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 has been enacted.
In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour was in operation since May, 1978.
The Government has revamped the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers with effect from 17th May, 2016. The revamped scheme is known as 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016'.
The salient features of the Scheme are as under:
(1) The revised scheme is a Central Sector Scheme. The State Government is not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance.
(2) Financial assistance has been increased from Rs. 20,000/- to one lakh per adult male beneficiary, Rs. 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries such as children including orphans or those rescued from organized & forced begging rings or other forms of forced
Contd..3/-

child labour, and women and Rs. 3 lakh in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization such as trans-genders, or woman or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies etc., or trafficking, or in cases of differently abled persons, or in situations where the District Magistrate deems fit.
(3) The amount of assistance for survey of bonded labourers is Rs. 4.50 lakh per district.
(4) The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. In cases where the trial has not been concluded, but the District Administration has arrived at a prima facie finding and proof of bondage, then the proposal for cash

assistance shall not be stopped for want of details of conviction. However, final disbursement of cash assistance and non-cash assistance shall be made upon proof of bondage and other legal consequences as per judicial process.
(5) Scheme provides for creation of a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.
(6) The fund is released by the Ministry under the Scheme to the District National Child Labour Project Society and the District Project Society in turn releases the fund to the implementing agencies including the district administration.
(7) The benefits prescribed above shall be, in addition to, other cash or non-cash benefits which a beneficiary under this scheme is entitled to, by or under any other scheme or law applicable for the time being in force. Further, the above benefits would be additionality to other land and housing elements etc. as mentioned below:
â€¢ Allotment of house-site and agricultural land.
â€¢ Land development.
â€¢ Provision of low cost dwelling units.
â€¢ Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery etc.
â€¢ Wage employment, enforcement of minimum wages etc.
â€¢ Collection and processing of minor forest products.
â€¢ Supply of essential commodities under targeted public distribution system.
â€¢ Education for children.
******